

A Study on the Improvement of English Teachers' Teaching and Academic Ability in Colleges and Universities for Nationalities

Li Xiaoyan*

Foreign Languages Institute, Kangding, Sichuan, 626001, China

*Corresponding Author

Keywords: Colleges and universities for nationalities, English teachers, Teaching, Academic ability

Abstract: Colleges and universities for Nationalities not only shoulder the important task of cultivating successors for our country, but also undertake the mission of maintaining national unity. In order to accomplish this task and mission, English teachers in Colleges for nationalities should not only improve their teaching ability, but also improve their scientific research ability. The tripartite cooperation of colleges, departments and teachers themselves can achieve this goal for a certain degree.

1. Introduction

Colleges and universities for nationalities are a comprehensive type of ordinary colleges and universities established in the process of historical education - development in order to solve the contradictions and conflicts between various nationalities in the country. So far, China's ethnic universities are mainly divided into two types - one is the university directly managed by China's central ministry, and the other is the local ethnic university [1]. President Xi Jinping pointed out, "China is a socialist country led by Communist, which determines that our education must take the training of socialist builders and successors as the fundamental task." As the executor of this task and mission, English teachers in Colleges and universities for nationalities should realize their mission and improve their ability of teaching and educating people as soon as possible.[2]

2. The Importance of Improving English Teachers' Teaching and Academic Ability in Colleges and Universities for Nationalities

Universities for nationalities are generally located in ethnic areas. Compared with other regions, its geographical location is relatively remote, its economic development is relatively backward, and its educational resources are relatively scarce. A large part of the students in Colleges and universities for nationalities are students from different nationalities. Because of voluntary applying and enrollment, they are lucky enough to enter the same university to study. As English teachers in Colleges and universities for nationalities, we should pay full attention to this objective reality. Only in this way can we better practice our own work. In my opinion, teachers' own work is not only teaching, but also academic research. The two complements each other and goes hand in hand with each other. We cannot highlight one and ignore the other.

2.1 Teachers' Job is Teaching

As an old Chinese saying goes: a teacher is a preacher. There is no doubt that teachers' job is teaching. English teaching is naturally the job of English teachers in Colleges and universities for nationalities. However, due to the particularity of the institutions they teach, the teaching objects of English teachers in ethnic colleges are different from others. The proportion of students from different ethnic minorities is higher than that of other ordinary colleges and universities. This means that the basis of teaching objects faced by English teachers in Colleges and universities for nationalities is relatively weak, especially the basis of English. Because most of them come from remote rural areas or even mountainous areas, they lack English education resources and have a very weak English foundation. Some students start learning English letters only in high school, and

even a few students start learning English from university. Therefore, it is common for teachers to face the uneven English level of students in a class. How to motivate these students' learning enthusiasm, balance the learning objects of good and bad, create a learning atmosphere of common progress, and realize the educational purpose of teaching and educating people are the tasks that English teachers in Colleges and universities for Nationalities need to complete.

2.2 Good Scientific Research Ability Can Effectively Help Teaching

Teachers' job is teaching. In order to do their job better, they need to cultivate good scientific research literacy and scientific research ability. It is imperative for College English teachers in ethnic areas. Teachers should understand the latest information in their subject field, constantly update their knowledge and skill training, and effectively apply these knowledge and skills to their teaching practice.[3] In this way, in the process of classroom teaching, students can feel the freshness and enthusiasm of teachers' teaching content for a long time. And the teachers can grasp the participation of students for a long time, improve students' knowledge and skills to a great extent. In this way, teachers can better perform their own work.

The author will take some teaching materials in the book *Contemporary College English*, as an example to illustrate the organic combination of the two. While teaching *Diogenes and Alexander*, teachers can use the teaching content to organically combine teaching and scientific research. As can be seen from the title of the article, the article here presents two famous figures in history. Diogenes is one of the famous representatives of the cynic School of ancient Greek philosophers.[4] He advocated that people restrict their unlimited desire for material pursuit and return to the most authentic, natural and extremely simple way of life. Today, his advocacy still has high social value. There are similarities between his theory and the theory of Lao Tzu, the Chinese sage. Teachers can better understand Diogenes' theory by studying their similarities and differences. Another character Alexander is the world-famous Alexander the great. His achievements are well known to all. He took Achilles, the great hero in Homer's epic, as an example and determined to be a hero like him.[5] Based on the comparison of Homer's epic and Gesar, which is widely spread in Tibetan areas, the author carries out a comparative study with heroism as the theme, so as to understand this epic and the characters in it more deeply. In the course of teaching, when the teacher discussed the two heroes in the two epics - Achilles and King Gesar in an overview way, the teacher was pleased to find that the students were more motivated. It can be seen that there is no need to separate teaching and scientific research. They should be organically combined, because teaching and scientific research complement each other and are inseparable. English teachers in Colleges and universities for nationalities can apply the achievements of scientific research to teaching, which greatly enriches the content of teaching. In this process, teachers can deepen the summary of teaching into scientific research achievements. The improvement of teaching ability provides conditions for the improvement of scientific research level. At the same time, the improvement of scientific research ability also greatly improves the improvement of teaching level, which can be described as a win-win situation.

3. Current Situation of English Teachers' Teaching and Scientific Research in Colleges and Universities for Nationalities

Although the improvement of English teachers' teaching and scientific research ability in Colleges and universities for nationalities is of great importance, taking Sichuan Minzu College as an example, the situation is not optimistic. Here, the teaching and scientific research abilities of English teachers in ethnic universities have not yet established a parallel and mutually reinforcing relationship, and there is still a phenomenon of giving consideration to one and losing the other or favoring one over the other.

3.1 Teachers Themselves Have Limited Energy, So They Can't Help Ignoring One

English teachers in Colleges and universities for Nationalities undertake heavy teaching tasks. Take the teachers of the English Department of Sichuan Minzu College who the author teaches as

an example, in recent years, the average number of weekly class hours undertaken by each teacher in each semester is about 16, and the average number of courses undertaken by each teacher is at least two, and some teachers have three or even four. Preparation for the classes will occupy a lot of teachers' time. Coupled with the guidance of graduate students' papers and other extra work, teachers don't have much time to calm down and do high-quality scientific research. In addition to these jobs, teachers also have families to take care of, parents and children to support. Sometimes they are really out of reach to the opportunities of getting themselves improved both in teaching and doing some academic researches. If they want to have enough time and energy to realize their improvement of their teaching ability and scientific research ability, sometimes they really have no time or energy to make it real.

3.2 The Imperfection of the Evaluation System Will Inevitably Lead to Favoritism

In the classroom, teachers are the ones who preach, teach and dispel doubts. Outside the classroom, teachers have to take care of their families. They are diligent spiritual pursuers, and they are also a part of all living beings in the world. In other words, they are just some ordinary people. In the evaluation system of teachers in colleges and universities for nationalities, the title of teachers still plays a leading role. It is closely related to teachers' salary and other remuneration. Teachers' professional titles are closely related to teachers' academic ability. How many articles have been published? What level of publication is it? How many projects have they participated in or presided over? How many monographs have been published? The teaching ability is not easy to be quantified in detail except for the slightly subjective student evaluation of teaching and the evaluation of teaching by peers or experts. Therefore, the distribution system of salary, performance and professional title makes many teachers devote a lot of their time and energy to scientific research. Sometimes there is even a disconnect between teaching and scientific research, which can neither improve the teaching quality nor improve the scientific research ability, resulting in the overall level of teachers' teaching and scientific research ability is not high and needs to be improved.

4. Suggestions on Improving English Teachers' Teaching and Academic Ability in Colleges and Universities for Nationalities

The improvement of English teachers' teaching and academic ability in Colleges for Nationalities seems to be a personal behavior, but it is not. It is a systematic project, which not only needs teachers' personal subjective consciousness and practical practice, but also needs the macro guidance and strong support of departments and colleges. Only by grasping the three links of teachers, departments and schools, can we better improve the academic and scientific research ability of English teachers in colleges for nationalities.

4.1 For Colleges - Establishing Concept, Creating Atmosphere and Providing Guarantee

In view of the practical problems encountered by teachers in the process of improving their own teaching and scientific research ability and the existing phenomenon, the author believes that top-down change may gain more than bottom-up efforts, which can achieve twice the result with half the effort. At the school level, we can establish the concept of keeping pace with teaching and academic research, change the distribution system focusing on scientific research, create a good and orderly atmosphere for teaching and scientific research, and provide institutional guarantee from a macro perspective. With this guarantee, teachers can avoid being in a dilemma. They can study carefully in both teaching and scientific research. The improvement of their teaching and scientific research ability is just around the corner. The idea established at the school level is like a wind vane, indicating the direction of teachers' efforts.

4.2 For Departments - Building a Platform and Developing a Teaching and Academic Community

Although ethnic students occupy a large proportion of students in colleges for nationalities, and

some departments with national characteristics will be set up in the organization of secondary colleges, such as the Tibetan language department, its organizational structure is consistent with other ordinary colleges and universities, and it will be divided into multiple secondary colleges. The prosperity and development of the college is inseparable from the efforts of teachers; The improvement of teachers' ability is also inseparable from the support of the college. Therefore, the improvement of teachers' teaching and academic ability is closely related to the development and growth of the college. From the department level, we should actively build a community of teachers' teaching and academic, build a more mature and perfect evaluation system of teaching and scientific research, and build a platform for the double promotion of teachers' teaching and scientific research. In this way, teachers can avoid going their own way, which is conducive to the integration of resources. In teaching, departments can organize a variety of teaching and research activities. Through these teaching and research activities, teachers can share high-quality teaching resources and teaching methods with the help of this platform, which can greatly save time, improve teachers' lesson preparation efficiency and enhance teaching ability. In terms of scientific research, teachers can also form scientific research groups according to their own research interests and research directions, which can better integrate forces and improve the level of applied projects and enhance the probability of successful application of scientific research projects. In this way, it is beneficial and harmless to the personal development and promotion of teachers and the long-term development of departments. Departments can also strengthen the training of teachers, encourage and support teachers to participate in more external training or online training, and enhance teachers' teaching skills and scientific research level. At the same time, supporting and encouraging teachers to participate in some large-scale teaching competitions can constantly polish their teaching ability in the process of participating in the competitions. Because the department where the author is working at is remote, the teachers are not confident enough psychologically and do not dare to participate in large-scale competitions. This year, the department divides the teachers into several groups. Each group prepares lessons collectively and sprint for the National English teaching competition. Among them, the teachers of two groups have been successfully promoted and achieved good results in the final finals. While sharing with other teachers, the teachers who returned with honors all mentioned one point, that is, through the competition, they not only enhanced their self-confidence, but also improved their teaching and scientific research level to varying degrees, and achieved a lot.

4.3 For Teachers - Correcting Attitude, Keeping the Original Mind and Constantly Doing Self-Reflection

If schools and departments are the external cause for English teachers in ethnic universities to improve their teaching and scientific research level, then teachers themselves are the internal cause of self-improvement. With the concept established by the school, the atmosphere created and the institutional guarantee provided, as well as the platform built by the college and department, the community composed by teachers and the mature and perfect evaluation system, teachers should correct their teaching attitude, study teaching design, master teaching methods, practice teaching skills, improve teaching ability, and actively understand the latest knowledge in the field of this subject, constantly update the knowledge system, strive to build an effective way for teaching and learning to complement and promote each other, and finally consolidate their scientific research ability while continuously improving their teaching ability.

5. Conclusion

Teachers' job is teaching. In order to perform their duties better, it is essential to improve their scientific research level. However, this is not a personal matter of teachers, but a systematic project. Only with the cooperation of schools, departments and teachers themselves can we improve teachers' teaching and scientific research abilities.

Acknowledgment

Sichuan Minzu College Project: Construction of Teaching and Academic Ability of English Teachers in Ethnic Universities (No. JG202146).

References

- [1] Baidu. <https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E6%B0%91%E6%97%8F%E7%B1%BB%E9%99%A2%E6%A0%A1/17583353>.2021-09-28
- [2] Littlewood,W.(1981).Communicative Language Teaching. London: Cambridge University Press
- [3] Nunan,D.(1989).Designing Tasks for the Communicative Classroom. London: Cambridge University Press
- [4] Limin Yang. Contemporary College English(Students' Book)[M]. BEIJING: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press. 2012